

AMENDMENT

Please replace presently pending claims 1-11 with the following claims 12-22:

b1 12. (new) A process for racemising an enantiomer-enriched Schiff base derived from a primary amino acid amide which process comprises contacting said enantiomer-enriched Schiff base with a strong base in an organic solvent wherein said strong base is chemically reactive with water.

13. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the strong base is a metal alkoxide, a metal alkyl, a metal amide, or a metal hydride.

A 14. (new) The process of claim 13 wherein the strong base is a metal alkoxide.

15. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the strong base is present in an amount of 0.001-1000 mole% relative to the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base.

16. (new) The process of claim 15 wherein the strong base is present in an amount of 0.1-100 mole% relative to the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base.

17. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is an N-benzylidene primary amino acid amide.

18. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is derived from an aliphatic primary amino acid amide.

19. (new) The process of claim 18 wherein the enantiomer-enriched Schiff base is derived from tertiary-leucine amide.

20. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein the organic solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon, a cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon or an ether.

cont.  
A1 21. (new) The process of claim 20 wherein the organic solvent is an aromatic hydrocarbon.

b2 22. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein said enantiomer-enriched Schiff base has been prepared from the primary amino acid amide in said organic solvent.

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